

July 21, 2005

Re: Rebuild of BPA's Transmission Line, Specifically Alternatives through Private Property in Sec 13, T31N, R32W

To Whom It May Concern:

Having missed a public meeting May 19, 2005, concerning Troy to Libby Section Rebuild Project, we received a phone call from BPA Rep, Dustin Smith, on July 21, and scheduled a meeting July 25 at our home to discuss the matter. We met at that time with project manager, Kirk Robinson, and Dustin Smith. Although most of our questions were answered at that time, we are making our comments at this time so they may become part of the public record on this project.

Our first and lasting comment is that we prefer to have the rebuild take place on the *existing* BPA line through Big Horn Terrace. The fact remains that the people living in proximity to this line built their homes there *after* the line was already there. They had a choice at that time to build there or not. They did build there, accepting any consequences of their action.

Our second comment on our preference to keep the line where it is concerns financial responsibility of the BPA. To make a "dog leg" up over a mountain, span a valley, connect to another mountain and go back to the main line again seems a little ridiculous considering the cost involved to do this. We chose to be in a quiet, fairly isolated, valley, despite some of its hardships, with as few impacts from our industrialized society as possible. We did not choose to build where a large powerline crossed our property.

We also think it would be best to rebuild the line as a double-circuit 230-kV line in anticipation of future needs, so that it would not be necessary to update again in the future.

The rest of the comments or questions are directed at the two alternatives proposed which would require that the high voltage line cross our property. Our first concern is invasion of our privacy, during the preliminary stages, during the actual construction, and the effects after construction, should it occur.

Is there a health hazard from exposure to high voltage lines? What have studies on this revealed?

What is the time frame for this project and how long will the work take in the vicinity of our property?

What is the proposed width of the easement?

Privacy and safety are real concerns of ours. We have roads on the mountain slopes on both sides of our property and are impacted already by inconsiderate users of these roads who shoot, party, hunt, snowmobile, ride four wheelers, etc., without regard to adjacent private property. With cleared sites for the towers and road access to the towers, we fear that the use of these areas by young people seeking a secluded place to party, as well as others mentioned above, would increase. Those activities increase the risk of stray bullets, forest fires (from unattended "party" or "hunting fires," or cigarettes improperly disposed of), noise pollution, other tangible items of pollution, and deprivation of our peace of mind and our right to enjoy our property to its fullest. We are concerned that the clearing for the easement would give more exposure to our place, again depriving us of some of our privacy. In regard to these concerns, have you considered fencing off, or at least signing areas to inform the public that they are not to be on the easement or in the vicinity of the towers and gating any dead end roads leading to the towers from an existing road?

Concerning the clearing that will be done: what will happen to the trees cut, and how is the slash disposed of? What is the maintenance program for the cleared easement?

Since the span through the valley would be extensive (up to 2000 feet?), has the safety issue of low flying aircraft in the

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valley been addressed? We would assume that the liability for any fire caused by a lightning strike to the line or a downed line would be the sole responsibility of BPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to ask questions and comment.